(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Myanmar side has noted the query and the GOI suggestion that the site in question be inspected for an early and amicable solution.

Surrender of wanted terrorists sheltered in Pakistan

238. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD :

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Pakistan has refused to surrender the wanted terrorists sheltered in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether this matter has been brought to the notice of the visiting USA officials who had discussions with the leaders of Indian Government in the recent past;

(c) if so, the American stand on the same; and

(d) whether Pakistan Government has sent any formal reply to Government's demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) On 31st December, 2001, Government handed over to Pakistan a consolidated list of 20 fugitives from law, known to be residing in Pakistan with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India. It was pointed out to Pakistan, that 15 of the criminals in the list already had Interpol Red Corner notices issued against them which also provided Pakistan sufficient basis to take action against them.

Pakistan has not responded positively to this request. The President of Pakistan, in his January 12 address to the Nation stated that there was no question of the Pakistani authorities handing over any Pakistan national to India. As regards the presence of non-Pakistan nationals, the President stated that Pakistan had not given any asylum to any such person.

The Government have consistently conveyed to the international community that action by Pakistan on the list of 20 will demonstrate its sincerity to permanently stop cross border terrorism against India. There is support and understanding for India's position.

U.S. Official's visit to India

239. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last six weeks a number of U.S.A. officials have visited India and Pakistan and have advised both the countries to de-escalate tension on the border;

(b) the outcome of the dialogue between U.S.A. officials and Government;

(c) whether it has reduced the number of incidents of infiltration and exfiltration in Jammu & Kashmir; and

(d) whether it has also helped de-escalation of tension on Indo-Pak Border ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) During the last six weeks, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and the U.S. Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld visited India on June 6-7 and June 11-12 respectively. These visits took place in the context of persisting cross-border terrorism againt India, culminating in the terrorist attack in Kaluchak on May 14.

(b) They conveyed President Musharraf's pledge to the United States on an immediate, visible and permanent end to cross-border infiltration and his assurance to dismantle terrorist camps and expressed hope for de-escalatory measures from india. Government responded in a calibrated manner to President Musharraf's pledge and to its own assessment of the situation on the ground.

(c) Infiltration and terrorist incidents continue to take place in Jammu & Kashmir as demonstrated by the heinous attack in Jammu on July 13.